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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER	
SHIN, KYUNG H	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2132	10

DATE MAILED: 06/01/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/473,098	ESTRADA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Kyung H Shin	2132	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *15 March 2004*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-15* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-15* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *26 December 1999* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. This action is in response to the Applicant's amendment filed Mar. 15, 2004.

2. **Claims 1, 3, 8, 9, 13-15** are amended, **claims 1 - 15** are pending on this application. **Claims 1, 3, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15** are independent claims.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed Mar. 15, 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive in overcoming the rejections based on the prior art of Salas et al. Applicant argues that Salas does not teach the structure of a double linked list for linking rooms with ACL security on rooms is not persuasive, because Salas discloses the parent and child concept as forward and reverse link list pointers, and access controls for rooms. In response to applicant's argument about the structures of a double linked list, it is noted that the features on which applicant relies are not recited in the rejected claims. Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See In re Van Geuns, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057(Feb. Cir. 1993). As such, the claims are read with the broadest reasonable interpretation in mind(Note MPEP 2111).

Salas discloses a parent (reverse) link list pointer. (see col. 4, lines 1-2; col. 5, lines 50-53: *"an up-arrow icon 456 which displays the "parent" of the*

eRoom currently being viewed, that is, it displays an eRoom page one logical level "up" from the currently viewed eRoom page") -Direct navigation to a parent room (eRoom in reference) requires a reverse link list pointer. Salas does disclose information concerning children (forward) link list pointers. (see col. 6, lines 52-56: *" ... information regarding any "children" the object may have ... ."*) Information pointing to child objects requires a forward list link pointer.

The application on Page 5 defines 'a readers field' as being a member object for identifying authorized members and a level of authorization for members. Salas discloses when an eRoom points to another eRoom, a child (forward) link pointer includes *a reader field* as a member object. (see col. 5, lines 42-44: *"members," 444 which permits certain users to change the membership list and access levels associated with members;)* Salas discloses a members object (readers field) for each eRoom in Figure 4, where the shortcut toolbar displays child eRooms reached by a forward (child) pointer. For each child eRoom accessed by linking pointer, a corresponding members object (readers field) is included. (see col. 6, lines 21-23: *"eRoom pages also may include a shortcut bar 410. The shortcut bar is a list of shortcuts which provide the viewer with a convenient way to access other eRoom pages."*)

Salas discloses access controls for members within rooms (eRooms in reference). (see col. 12, lines 7-9: *" ... eRoom may be viewed or edited by team members having the appropriate access controls ... ."*) as well as a level of authorizations for users (members) (see col. 5, lines 42-48: *" ... "members," ...*

access levels associated with members; "create," 446 which allows certain users to create new items and pages; "edit," 448 which allows certain users to edit eRoom pages; "settings," 450 which permits settings for the display and management of eRooms to be changed; ...) (see col. 14, lines 39-50: Access of users to each room (eRoom) is controlled.) Therefore, the rejection of claims 1-15 is proper and maintained herein.

4. The text of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. Claims 1 - 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Salas et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,233,600; filed date 15 July 1997).

Regarding Claim 1 [Currently amended], Salas discloses a collaboration space, comprising:

a) a place comprising a plurality of rooms linked by forward and reverse pointers, (see col. 3, lines 32-35) each said forward pointer including a readers field; (see col. 5, lines 42-44; and col. 6, lines 21-23)

b) a member directory for said place identifying users authorized to enter said place; (see Fig. 1; col. 3, lines 49-57)

c) and each said room comprising one or more pages, and for each said room said readers field being a members object for identifying

members authorized to access said room and for each member a level of authorization. (see Fig. 1; col. 3, lines 57 - col. 4, line 3)

Regarding Claim 3 [Currently amended], Salas discloses a collaboration space, comprising:

a) a place comprising a plurality of rooms linked by pointers; (see col. 4, line 66 - col. 5, line 6)

b) a member directory for said place identifying users authorized to enter said place; (see col. 3, lines 49-51; col. 14, lines 39-42)

c) and each said room comprising one or more pages, and for each said room a members object for identifying members authorized to access said room and for each member a level of authorizations. (see col. 14, lines 39-50)

said rooms including a parent room and a child room, and said pointers comprising forward and backward pointers for enabling the security of each said room to be independently managed. (see col. 6, lines 39-55)

Regarding Claim 8 [Currently amended], Salas discloses a database access control system, comprising:

a) an access control list for specifying users who can or cannot access said database; (see col. 14, lines 31-36)

b) for users authorized to access said database, said access control list further specifying access levels and roles determining the specific actions

said users are authorized to perform, said roles including reader, author, and manager; (see col. 14, lines 37-44)

c) a form selectively including a form access list; (see col. 13, lines 27-34)

d) said database including one or more documents created from said form; (see col. 13, lines 46-51)

e) forward pointers linking said form to said documents and reverse pointers linking said documents back to said form; (see col. 4, lines 1-2; col. 5, lines 50-53; col. 6, lines 52-56)

f) said form access list identifying users authorized to read documents created from said form; (see col. 13, lines 38-46)

g) each said forward pointer to a document including a document access field selectively including a readers field and an authors field for controlling who can read or modify said document (see col. 14, lines 46-50); users identified in any said form access list for said form from which said document was created being included in said readers field; (see col. 14, lines 50-54)

h) entries in said readers field granting authorization to an individual user equal to or less than the authorization for said individual user in said access control list; (see col. 14, lines 46-50)

i) and entries in said authors field selectively granting authorization to a user authorized as an author in said access control list to edit a document which said author creates. (see col. 14, lines 46-50)

Regarding Claim 9 [Currently amended], Salas discloses a method for controlling access to rooms within a collaboration place, comprising the steps of:

a) maintaining for said collaboration place an access control list identifying those users authorized to enter said place; (see Fig. 1; col. 3, lines 49-57)

b) providing forward and reverse pointers linking said rooms in a hierarchical structure within said place, said forward pointers having a readers field; (see Fig. 4; col. 5, lines 60 - col. 6, line 1)

c) displaying a parent room to a specific user, said parent room including a list of children rooms for which said readers fields on said forward pointers authorize said specific user access. (see col. 6, lines 39-55)

Regarding Claim 13 [Currently amended], Salas discloses a program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by a machine to perform method steps for controlling access to rooms within a collaboration place, said method steps comprising:

a) maintaining for said collaboration place an access control list identifying those users authorized to enter said place; (same as 9.a)

b) providing forward and reverse pointers linking said rooms within said place, said forward pointers having a readers field; (same as 9.b)

c) displaying a parent room to a specific user, said parent room including a list of children rooms for which said readers fields on said forward pointers authorize said specific user access. (same as 9.c)

Regarding Claim 14 [Currently amended], Salas discloses an article of manufacture comprising: a computer useable medium having computer readable program code means embodied therein for controlling access to rooms within a collaboration place, the computer readable program means in said article of manufacture comprising:

a) computer readable program code means for causing a computer to effect maintaining for said collaboration place an access control list identifying those users authorized to enter said place; (same as 9.a)

b) computer readable program code means for causing a computer to effect providing forward and reverse pointers linking said rooms in a hierarchical structure within said place, said forward pointers having a readers field; (same as 9.b) (see col. 4, lines 1-2; col. 6, lines 52-56)

c) and computer readable program code means for causing a computer to effect displaying a parent room to a specific user, said parent room including a list of children rooms for which said readers fields on said forward pointers authorize said specific user access. (same as 9.c)

Regarding Claim 15 [Currently amended], Salas discloses a computer program product or computer program element for controlling access to rooms within a collaboration place according to the steps of:

a) maintaining for said collaboration place an access control list identifying those users authorized to enter said place; (same as 9.a)

b) providing forward and reverse pointers linking said rooms in a double-linked list within said place, said forward pointers having a readers field; (same as 9.b)

c) displaying a parent room to a specific user, said parent room including on said forward pointers a list of children rooms for which said readers fields authorize said specific user access. (same as 9.c)

Conclusion

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Contact Information

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kyung H Shin whose telephone number is 703-305-0711. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30 am - 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gilberto Barron can be reached on 703-305-1830. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

KHS

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May 25, 2004

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